



City of  
**Indianapolis**  
*Bart Peterson, Mayor*



**Indiana**  
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## ***Kernan, Peterson announce plans for pollution preventing ethanol stations as part of Earth Day festivities***

**INDIANAPOLIS** — In conjunction with statewide Earth Day festivities, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan and Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson announced plans today to open four ethanol and bio-diesel motor fuel stations around the city by the end of 2005.

The "Future Fuels Initiative: Indianapolis Partnership Program" is a joint venture between the Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy and Recycling Office (ERO) and the City of Indianapolis. The city, using a \$70,000 ERO grant, has begun to install new equipment at city garages to fuel state- and city-owned vehicles with 85% ethanol (E-85) and 20% bio-diesel (B-20) fuel.

Using ethanol and bio-diesel fuels will reduce harmful emissions from vehicles, such as carbon monoxide and particulate matter, improving overall air quality. Produced from agricultural products and by-products, such as corn and wheat chaff, ethanol production also creates an increased demand for agricultural commodities. Bio-diesel is made from a variety plant and animal oils. Because these fuels are domestically produced, there will be less dependence on imported fossil fuels.

"This is an exciting new partnership and we're glad to partner with the city on this effort," said Kernan who serves as the director of the Department of Commerce. "These fueling stations will fill a void, and allow the city and the state to both more effectively utilize alternative fuels. This new fuel program is the perfect example of how to preserve our valuable resources for future generations."

Currently, 250 city vehicles and more than 800 state vehicles, with about 150 of those in the Indianapolis area, are capable of operating on E-85. These vehicles are rarely operated using ethanol. The city also has more than 425 heavy-duty, diesel-powered vehicles that can use B-20.

The city and state will encourage drivers of the vehicles to use these fuels whenever possible. During "Knozone Action Days," days in which weather conditions are favorable for the formation of high amounts of ground-level ozone, Mayor Peterson said he would require city vehicles to use these fuels, if needed.

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“We are happy to host this project that will reduce air pollution in our city and can hopefully serve as a model for our cities around the state,” Mayor Peterson said. “By embarking on this partnership, Indianapolis city government can help lead our community toward cleaner air, a safer environment and better fuel efficiency.”

Commerce made \$70,000 available to the city for construction of the first fueling site at West St., which was completed in December 2002. New equipment was installed including a refueling pump, a 5,000 gallon above ground fuel tank and a card reader integrated into the city’s fuel management system. Some city cars have been using the fuel on trial basis since then.

Commerce is also providing another \$70,000 for the additional facilities at 1651 West 30<sup>th</sup> St, at 2700 South Belmont and 1220 Waterway, near the Indianapolis Water headquarters. The city will manage the facilities and will charge the state for fuel consumed plus a one-cent per gallon administrative fee.

*The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day Indiana Festival – whose theme is “Energy Efficiency is the Key” – is scheduled for April 26 on the Veteran’s Memorial Plaza in downtown Indianapolis, is the state’s largest environmental festival. For more information about the event, call the information line at 317.767.3672 or visit [www.earthdayindiana.org](http://www.earthdayindiana.org).*

*For information regarding this or other state programs, contact Commerce’s Energy and Recycling Office, at 317.232.8911 or visit [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).*

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